

FAIRHAVEN COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

Meeting Minutes June 12, 2019

Meeting held at Fairhaven Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven

Contact: cod@fairhaven-ma.gov

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FAIRHAVEN,
MASS

Present: Charles Murphy (chairperson), Maria Ruedlinger Walker (secretary), Joseph Borelli, Donna Lavallee, Brian Rego, Diane Rocha

Absent: Trina Brigham (vice chairperson), Anne Silva (Treasure), Mark Rees (ADA Coordinator), Marcus Ferro, and Kelly Smith

I. OPEN MEETING 6.45 pm

Chairman Charles Murphy opened the meeting.

II. REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Meeting on April 17, 2019. Donna motioned to accept minutes; Diane seconded. All voted in favor, last meeting's minutes accepted.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Anne has resigned, no treasure report presented. All treasure documentation was brought to the meeting and is now stored in Town Hall at the Selectmen's office.

IV. TOWN INFORMATION

Mark absent; see attached report on the progress of the accessibility work at Town Hall, as well as concerns with accessibility compliance for the Fire Station on Washington Street and improvements planned.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. No news on Handicap Parking signs in town.

2. Anne Silvia has resigned from the Commission on Disability after 6 years on the board and as Treasure for part of that time, see attached letter. Anne is wishing to collaborate with the Commission on Disability in her role as Director for the Council on Aging.

To have full membership for the Commission on Disability, we are looking to add a new member. The position as Treasure is open.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Guest speaker Noah Brine presented his project; to fund and run a non-profit organization, "Spectrum", providing advocacy for persons with disabilities. Noah's idea has been born out of his own experiences; the organization is in the planning phase. Noah is planning on serving the Bristol County area, initially with referral, possibly in the future expanding to training consumers in self-advocacy. Noah can be reached at brine.noah1@gmail.com.

2. The sign language classes are currently running. No further news.

3. With Anne Silvia's resignation, our meeting location might change from the Fairhaven Council on Aging to a different site. Diane will talk to Krisanne Seedy, Executive Director of the Fairhaven Housing Authority, to ask if it is possible for the Commission on Disability to have regular meetings at the Oxford Terrace location. The location will be announced in good time before our next meeting.

4. No ADA updates or resent announcements from Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD).

VII. THE NEXT MEETING will be held on October 2 @ 6.30 pm. The location will be announced.

VIII. STATUS ON DISABILITY ISSUES IN TOWN

See update under IV. TOWN INFORMATION.

IX. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

No other business to discuss. Brian motioned to adjourn; Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Ruedlinger Walker

MEMO

TO: Fairhaven Commission on Disabilities
FROM: Mark Rees, ADA Coordinator
DATE: June 12, 2019
RE: Update Report

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I have two items to report to the Commission regarding ADA compliance in Town facilities

1) As the Board is aware, we have installed automatic openers on all doors along the handicap accessibility "path" from the handicap access ramp to the mezzanine level of town hall making access to the Board of Selectmen/Town Administrator, Assessors, Veterans, and Building offices ADA compliant. The pathway goes directly through the Veterans office space which has resulted in the work of that office being disrupted when the path is used. I have engaged the services of Architect Joe Booth to look at ways we can reconfigure town hall offices to address this problem while still maintaining maximum accessibility to those who are mobility impaired. I will report back to the Commission and Board of Selectmen once Mr. Booth submits his recommendations to me.

2) At the last election, the Town Clerk was informed that the entrance to the voting location at the Fire Station may not be in compliance with ADA requirements. At my request, our Building Commissioner Kris White looked at the entrance and determined that we need to make some changes such as adding hand rails, marking a handicap accessibility parking space and adding an automatic door opener to come into compliance. I have asked the Fire Chief to get an estimate of making these improvements after which I will try to find a source of funds to pay for them.

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FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

June 7, 2019

Dear Mr. Rees and Selectmen,

I am sending this letter to inform you of my resignation as member and Treasurer of the Commission on Disability. I will be more than happy to continue to support and assist any residents of Fairhaven with a disability through the Council on Aging. The Council on Aging will continue to collaborate with the Commission on Disability with the Sand for Seniors Project or any other project that connects our missions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Anne Silvia, Director

Fairhaven Council on Aging